

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for providing confirmation relating to the distribution of a mailpiece in an international mailing system, the method comprising:
  - a) combining a set of value-added services data into a machine readable mark on a mailpiece, said value-added services data including addressing information for a sending receipt to a first handling postal authority and a mailer identification code;
  - b) reading said mark at a second handling postal authority for determining whether a value-added service has been requested;
  - c) performing said determined value-added service;
  - d) sending a message to said first handling postal authority at the address determined from the value added services data, said message relating to said performed value-added service; and
  - e) determining an original mailer electronic address at said first handling postal authority based upon said mailer identification code.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mailer identification code is encrypted.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 further including the step of delivering said message to said original mailer.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data relating to value-added service request includes a first handling postal authority e-mail address.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data relating to value-added service request includes a first postal authority telephone number.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said data relating to value-added service request includes a first postal authority facsimile number.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein mailer address is determined by using a look up table.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said value-added service request is an electronic confirmation of receipt.
9. A method for providing value-added services relating to the distribution of a mailpiece within an international mailing system, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) creating a first database including a plurality of postal authority identifications corresponding to a plurality of postal authority addresses;
  - b) creating a second database at a first handling postal authority, said database including a mailer identification corresponding to said mailer address;

- c) creating a set of data in response to a request for a value-added service; said data including said mailer identification and a first handling postal authority identification;
- d) incorporating said set data and on said mailpiece;
- e) obtaining said set of data from said mailpiece at a second handling postal authority;
- f) performing said request for value-added service;
- g) creating a mail item file including a set of mailpiece data and said set of data relating to said performed value-added service; and
- h) determining said address of said first handling postal authority based upon said first database;
- i) delivering said mail item file to said first handling postal authority address; and
- j) delivering said mail file item to said original mailer address based upon said second database.

11. The method of claim 9 further including the steps of:

(a) associating a value-added service request identifier with said request for said value-added service;

- (b) printing said value-added service identifier on a mailpiece;
- (c) reading said value-added service identifier to determine whether a request for a value-added service has been made.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said first database includes a first handling postal authority e-mail address.

13. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said second database includes a mailer's e-mail address.

14. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said value-added service request is an electronic confirmation of receipt.

15. The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said value-added service request is an electronic communication.

16. A system for providing value-added services relating to the distribution of a mailpiece within an international mailing system comprising:

- a) a first database of mailer addresses indexed by a mailer identification code;
- b) a second database of postal authority addresses indexed by a postal authority identification code;

- c) a means for incorporating a request for a value-added service and a mailer identification code on a mailpiece;
- d) means for creating a mail item file at said second postal authority; said mail item file including said mailer identification code and said value-added service request;
- e) means for determining, at said second postal authority, said first postal authority address; and
- f) means for performing said value-added service;
- g) means for communicating said performance of said value-added service to said original mailer, said mailer address obtained using said first database.

17. The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said mailer identification code is encrypted.

18. The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said first database includes said mailer e-mail address.

19. The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said second database includes said postal authority e-mail address.

20. The system as claimed in claim 16 wherein said value-added service request is a confirming electronic message.

21. The system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said set of data relating to value-added service request includes a facsimile number.

22. The system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said value-added service request is an electronic confirmation of receipt.

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